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THE REBEL

THE GREAT APPEAR GREAT TO US ONLY BECAUSE WE ARE ON OUR KNEES — LET US ARISE

T.A.HICKEY, Editor and Owner
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No. 188

"THE TRIUMPH OF TOM HICKEY."

Mr. George Robinson, managing editor of the Waco Times-Herald, the largest afternoon paper published in Central Texas, and who is generally known as the greatest disciple of Tom Jefferson in the Democratic party in the South today, has been much perturbed for more than a year over the land plank of his neighbor from Texas.

An evidence of this perturbation is seen in the following editorial that he wrote for his paper last week and was reproduced on the editorial page of the Houston Post of February 23. He says:

FERGUSON'S LAND SCHEME.

(From the Waco Times-Herald.)

It is quite evident that the legislature is up against a knotty problem in the enactment of a law that fixes the maximum of rentals. For such a law is a covert attack on land titles and is also in the nature of an assault on the right of contract. But it's a platform demand and has the backing of Governor Ferguson. It should be enacted, not on its merit, but to redeem the party pledge. The immediate law is of no great consequence. But it can be used as a precedent to disturb every land title in the State. It is assumed by the courts that all land titles are derived from this or some prior government. We all accept this, although it's a question similar to that of whether the egg or the chicken comes first. If John Doe, therefore, sues a tract of land —sues it without question— where does the State get the authority to say that he shall rent it to Richard Roe on terms of the State's prescribing? If the State can do that, why might not the State, in imitation of what has taken place in the world's past, recognize occupancy of the land as legitimate ownership? It is quite evident that Mr. Ferguson has opened up a Pandora's box, which he is going to find it very difficult to close. It might turn out that the defeat of Tom Ball was the triumph not of Jim Ferguson, but of Tom Hickey. Anyhow, we won't be shocked if we hear that Tom Hickey is communicating with Collen Thomas through Frank Putnam. These be parlous times.

This remarkable utterance coming from probable the best-trained newspaper mind of the muzzled press of Texas is worthy of serious thought by every student of events today. "Pandora's box" has indeed been opened, and it would require all the Prometheban fire to tip the pens of the landlord editors of the South to save them from the fate that is about to overtake their masters.

The distinguished editor sees when he tells his readers that it will be a triumph of Tom Hickey. On the contrary it will be a triumph of the great rank and file of the Socialist party of Texas and the Land League of America — nay more, it will be a triumph of civilization.

The editor of this great religious weekly published on the banks of the Lavaca, wishes to thank the editor of the paper that the pen of Brann shot into prominence on the banks of Brazos for the well-intentioned compliment that is contained in the statement that the governor of Texas shall lose in this great land fight and I shall triumph. Had he stopped to inquire about the form of organization of the Socialist party of Texas, its methods and its principles, he would realize that the individual, Tom Hickey, is not the factor in the fight. He is no more than the drop seen in the sunlight when an ocean wave breaks into ten thousand drops on a rocky coast.

What is behind the wave that makes Editor Robinson believe that Editor Hickey will triumph over Governor Ferguson? Just this: The party of Ferguson is the party of failure so far as the masses of the people of the state are concerned. After the close of the civil war at the end of the Davis administration it took over what was to all intents and purposes the republic of Sam Houston, the state that had been baptized by the most generous blood that had ever offered a sacrifice to freedom. But through their mal-administration of affairs our state is financially wrecked not because of the European war, but because it is at the mercy of land grabbers and usurers who have turned Texas into a combination of poor house and grafter's paradise.

They have given away 36,500,000 acres to the Jay Gould railway starks of Wall Street. They have given 3,000,000 acres more for the building of a capitol. They have allowed one Irish adventurer in South Texas to grab 1,400,000 acres. They have allowed a Swenson to secure 1100 sections in West Texas, some of which was taken up in the names of dead people, blind mules and female dogs.

They have operated under a mildewed constitution adopted when ox carts were the methods of transportation, candles the illuminant, and newspapers reached the bulk of our population 30 days after publication; that constitution provided then and does to this bitter day when we have the landless man and the manless land that no more than 35 acres shall be levied in taxes upon the land, four-fifths of which had already been grabbed.

The results are known. The lesson is so plain that even a wayfaring man though not a fool can see. Read them:

Our glorious Texas a synonym for illiteracy, and with the largest school fund in the world, 38th in education in the United States! Our Texas with more tenants than Ireland ever dreamed of, and if you ransack Southern Europe you would in vain seek a parallel. Our Texas, that by birth and blood should be in the vanguard of civilization, scorned, despised and condemned as an annex to hell, while we her sons know that were her affairs properly administered she would be a Garden of Eden!

Because we know these things, we know that Jim Ferguson will be the smallest governor that Texas has ever seen. In this day of crises he rode into office on a plank that is a fake on its face because he and his beat Tom Ball by ridiculing Ball's land plank while claiming that their land plank was the panacea for all the ills that the renters were suffering from; when, as a matter of fact it only affected four thousand tenants who paid bonus and possible 17,000 more who paid cash rent and in no way touched the 230,000 tenants who are operating under the third and fourth and half system and will continue to be homeless and landless in the future as in the past when Ferguson sat back behind the big brass rail, in his Temple bank and collected his 80 per cent.

But yet Ferguson has his place in the scheme of things. Was not Artemus Ward correct when he said: "Everything has its place in nature, including measles and New England rum!" So with the banker from Temple. Has he not his place because he, as the Times-Herald editor points out, he is sponsor for a new law that, *"can be used as a precedent to disturb every land title in the state."* This was the last thing the landlords wanted, but the land agitation of the Socialist party forced both Ferguson and Ball to shelve the prohibition agitation and take up the land question, or, failing to do so, find their political power taken from them.

Now that the predicate has been laid for the destruction of "every land title in the state," the landless farmer and all other honest citizens are looking into the basis of land titles and in delving deep they find the great authorities on Land—Jehovah and Blackstone, and here are the two in the best boiled-down statement as to land titles, ever framed by divine and human hands:

> It is well if the mass of mankind will obey the laws when made, without scrutinizing too nicely into the reason for making them. But when law is to be considered not only as a matter of practise, but also as a rational science, it cannot be improper or useless to examine more deeply the rudiments and grounds of these positive constitutions of society. In the beginning of the world, we are informed by holy writ that the all bountiful creator gave to man "Dominion over all the earth, and over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and every living thing that moveth upon the earth." This is the only true and solid foundation of man's dominion over external things, whatever airy metaphysical notions may have been started by fanciful writers upon the subject. The earth, therefore, and all things therein are the general property of all mankind, exclusive of other beings, from the immediate gift of the Creator."—Sharswood's Blackstone Commentaries Vol. 1, page 393, edition of 1876.

After reading this from the greatest legal authority that ever lived and his quotation from the Word of God as to the basis of land titles, need we wonder that Editor Robinson shrewdly points out that Governor Ferguson has opened up the box of Pandora, that fabled box, the lid of which closed on Hope in the mythical age, but hope today is regarded as eternal, and in Texas the fires of hope burn brighter than ever before in the hearts of the landless who realize that their only salvation lies in the destruction of land titles.

The fear of a discussion of land titles, state and nationwide today, so scholarly presented by Editor Robinson reminds us of the men who sat in the fabled hall of Ehlis where each concealed an incurable wound in his bosom by agreeing not to speak of it. So does the landlord banker class of Texas and Oklahoma frown down on one of their own who raises any question that leads to the discovery of the social wound of landlordism.

* * *

The conclusion to be drawn from all this is that landlorism must perish in Texas, in Oklahoma, and the entire nation. It is as sure to go as tomorrow's sun will rise or else the word of God is a joke. Blackstone and Kent are fools. It will occur by ballots, cast by citizens who dare speak of the disease of landlordism that affects the body politic today. Should the landlord-banker class be as stupid as their brothers in all preceding social systems and seek by means of a muzzled press, a corrupted legislature, a bemirched judiciary and a rajed ballot box to stay the destruction of their malevolent institutions, then the question will be settled with bullets on this side of the Rio Grande and just as a Terrazas walked on foot with his family caravan over the mesas of Mexico to seek refuge on this side of the line leaving twenty-six million acres behind and cattle on a thousand hills all in the hands of his distranchised peons, so will the 1,500,000 Texans who are now in a similar condition of peonage, make the Kirbys, the Slaughters, the Waggoners, the Kleberges, hit the trail for a climate that is healthier for them than Texas.

* * *

~~The Rebel is glad to be able to publish this scholarly editorial~~ from the pen of the wisest old party managing editor in the state, and also its publication in the Houston Post, the biggest political daily in the state, whose editor for 20 years has been national committeeman of the Democratic party of Texas.

It is a clean-cut indication that the enemy is on the run. The sinking of each day's sun finds the land program of the Socialist party more in favor than the day before and also sees that the disgust of the masses of the Democratic party has grown apace. There will be no letters to Frank Putnam or Cullen Thomas from Tom Hickey. Cullen Thomas has blown up and burned his bridges behind him in his idiotic advocacy of the candidacy of Tom Ball who proposed to solve the land question by proposing to give each tenant four dollars apiece!

Yes Pandora's box is opened, and the Socialists who opened it will soon be in possession of the state government. The storming of this outpost will be like another Lexington, the first shot of which was heard around the world. It will be the greatest triumph for the landless man ever recorded in history, because it will destroy American landlordism as Lexington did English monarchy.

We will have destroyed RENT, one of the three pillars of the temple of capitalism and then the other two will fall of their own weight.

The consequences of Ferguson's land campaign will not be "a triumph" for Tom Hickey, but will be a triumph for the Socialist party of Texas, at present the second political party in the state of Texas, and through that party a triumph for humanity.

"The Enemy Within."

SHALL WE HAVE WAR?

Will the United States be plunged into war with a European power? is a question of increasing concern at this moment. That it is likely to happen, no student of events will for a moment question.

In the light of the Spanish-American war, the question of "isolation" is disposed of at a glance. What is the difference in miles between Madrid and Berlin?

That the Enemy Within is the same as all "civilized" nations, goes without saying. Even an American Ford car is sold by the philanthropist $200 cheaper in Dusseldorf than in Detroit.

And so our present government, having signed peace treaties with a baker's dozen of nondescript South American republics, stands forth as an exemplar of peace, just as Carnegie who sold to his country armor plate filled with blowholes, got away with the swag and then built a palace of peace at the Hague, in the main hall of which the war correspondents of the world met five years later to secure data about the battling nations.

Five years earlier the czar of Russia presided over this peace conference and toasted the gentleman and patriot who sold the blow-hole armor plate to the American government, the country of his adoption. He surely was a cousin Scot from the land of Bobbie Burns.

In short the Socialists knew the Enemy Within.

* ? *

Knowing full well the national situation the Socialists of America sent a petition to President Wilson calling on him to "stave the war and feed America" by placing an embargo upon all munitions of war and foodstuffs to the end that we would in no wise assist Europe to remain a slaughter house and a lunatic asylum.

Too well did the Socialists know that the Enemy Within had the inside information that enables them to buy the wheat from 65 to 92 cents which they would later unload upon the warring nations at $1.65. Full well we knew that a similar tribute would be exacted from our own wageworkers; and most thoroughly did we know that they could through their control of the markets accomplish almost the impossible of starving the South by driving cotton down to 7 cents, far below the cost of production.

What did our president and congress do?

They proposed to keep their hands off and pose as a neutral nation, with the result that the Enemy Within sold flour, bacon, sugar, and all other commodities at higher prices to the men, women and children of America than they did to the men in the trenches on the continent of Europe and to the European cities outside of the war zone!

Did Wilson and Bryan consciously sound for this policy, both of them should be hung for high treason from the highest point on the Washington monument. One is the president and the other is the secretary of state and both of them control of the Secretary of War and the rest of the cabinet. Unfortunately for our statesmanship The Rebel is profoundly convinced that they are both time-servers whose early training prevents them from realizing and grappling with the power of the Enemy Within.

This enemy expressed its power when it set us on a campaign of "expansion" across the Pacific and in the interest of sugar barons that wished to grab Cuban fields and did not even stop at the blowing up of the Maine to serve their ends.

This Enemy Within did see that by dragging the American flag over the Pacific and planting it in the eyes of Nippon would invite America to take her place among the predatory powers of the world that are now and were then screaming for war to the orchestration of Krupp guns.

Were the Enemy Within patriotic in the best sense of the force and loved their country by developing it instead of exploiting it, as the German now do the Belgians or the English did the Egyptians and the Boers, they would have rolled up the scroll when the forty-eight states were carved out and by the proper utilization of the genius of Columbia they would have made a country that would have been an enemy of war be-

(Continued to page two.)

Land Questions Answered.

The Rebel is in receipt of a large number of questions relative to the land situation in Texas. We have held them up for three weeks so that we could answer them all en bloc:

A. L., Amarillo, Tex. — How many tenant farmers move every year?

Answer:— The number in increasing each year. For the past five years they average about 50 per cent.

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R. M. B., Young Co.: — How many tenants in Texas pay cash rent?

A.:— Census returns show that less than 8 per cent. pay cash rent the exact number being 17,549.

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J. K. B. Dallas Co.:— Are you not in error when you speak of there being 250,000 land tenants in the state, as the census figures show that there are 219,575 tenant farmers.

A.:— I respectfully suggest to you not to be a smart Aleck. I know what the census figures are, but what you do not know is that there are 38,323 farm land owners who are classed as owners because they farm from one to 19 acres and then have to rent from 80 to 160 acres more to make a living. So the total is more than what I put down. Instead of 230,000 it is actually 247,933. Inasmuch as tenantry is increasing at the rate of 4000 a year it is absolutely correct to say that there are one quarter of a million of heads of families who are land renters.

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I. A., Athens, Tex.:— What is the proportion of tenant farmers in the United States who live in Texas, and what is the proportion of the nation's farm owners residing in this state?

A.:— 9 13-16 per cent. of the tenant farmers of the United State, live in Texas or about one in ten for the entire nation. Only five per cent. of the nation's farm owners reside in this state. In other words the greatest agricultural state in the union has proportionately 100 per cent. more tenants than are in the rest of the nation, including New England where they farm on rocks.

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S. A. D., Gonzales Co.—What is the best illustration that you know of that would convey to the average man the insecurity of the tenant's condition from year to year? I ask this as propagandist of the Land League.

A.—Landlordism has converted the vast masses of the Texas agricultural population into a race of nomads—poverty-stricken proletarian crusaders who live from paper sacks, while going down the tenant chute. The official record shows that only 8000 of the 250,000 tenant farmers of Texas have not moved in the last ten years. In other words 97 out of every hundred land tenants in the greatest agricultural state in the Union have had to move during the decade. As matters are arranged now the same proportion will have to shift in the next five years and Ferguson's land plank will properly function as a measure that puts all the farmers on the halves.

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J. A. G., Weatherford, Tex.—What is the proportion of tenantry for each decade for the past thirty years?

A.—The census figures of 1890 show that 38 per cent of the Texas farmers were tenants. In 1890 it increased to 42 per cent. In 1900 the tide of tenantry rose to 50 per cent. and in 1910 it rose to 53 per cent. absolute tenants and 76 per cent. were tenants and mortgaged farmers. Only 24 per cent. of the farm homes of the state are free and a large per cent. of them amounting to nearly 60,000 families own from 2 to 19 acres and from 20 to 40 acres each.

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W S., Rockdale, Tex.—How many homeless farmers are there in Texas and what proportion are negroes?

A.—As shown above there are 250,000 heads of families in Texas now. Averaging six to a family we have 1,500,000 of our agricultural population homeless. Only 55,000 families are negroes. The great majority are white farmers who are homeless in the land of their fathers

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R. C. A., Lavaca Co.—What is the difference in value between the land and buildings on the tenant farm of Texas and those that are operated by their owners?

A.—The land and buildings of those who till the soil are just one-half of the value of those who till the soil as home owners. Give a man a rock and he will turn it into a garden; let him be a black land tenant and ordinarily he will turn it into a waste place.

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John W., Cuero, Tex.—What is the area of land cultivated in Texas?

A.—27,000,000 acres, or approximately 43,000 square miles according to the report of the Texas Welfare Commission. Texas is 55,000 square miles larger than Germany, so that you could put all of Germany into Texas on land that is not cultivated and then would have 14,000 square miles left out of cultivation. Here are the exact figures:

	sq. miles.
Texas	266,000
Germany	209,000
Balance	57,000
Cultivated area of Texas	43,000
	14,000

Uncultivated area in Texas is equal to the empire of Germany and 14,000 square miles additional.

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G. A., Greenville, Tex.—What is the reason Texas is in such a deplorable condition of land tenantry that verges on peonage?

A.—We are in this condition for the simple reason that the tenants have allowed the legislature to become the mouthpiece of landlords and usurers and commercial interests generally. There is not one land tenant in the legislature now and there never has been, so far as we know. On the contrary we have the landlord-bankers, of which Ferguson is a thorough type. We have the landlord-bankers of which John H. Kirby is a type. We have banker-farmers of which the gentleman from Fannin county is a type. We have landlord-banker-lawyers of which Roger Byrne of Smithville is a type. We have the landlord lawyer of the Carlos Bee type, of San Antonio. We have the landlord-owned type of newspaper man like G. W. McKnight of Ellis county. We have the hypocritical Bible-pounding type like Leachman of Dallas, who has never read understandingly Genesis, Leviticus, Nehemiah, Isaiah or Blackstone or Chancellor Kent. We have—but oh what's the use—it appears, to us that the man was right who said: "The legislature is located at Austin because the lunatic asylum is four blocks away." The Rebel means this because the scurvy bunch is going to be cleaned either by ballots or shot-guns. We'll have a wholesale lynching of these cattle who have made the state of Texas—a state that was originally the cradle of liberty, a state that has more glorious traditions than any other state in the Union—a haven for a few landlords and a hell for a quarter of a million tenant families. Clean them out!

CLARK VISITS REBEL.

Stanley J. Clark, who has no peer as a Socialist orator, organizer and organizer, visited the Rebel office Sunday and was enthusiastically greeted by the staff.

Interviewed by the managing editor he said:

"My trip for The Rebel Lecture Bureau has been a success and it is a pleasure that was carried through in the worst months of the year, and under the most depressing financial condition, due to the cotton situation.

"The skies are now bright and I have no doubt but that from now on it will have every better success than I have had so far. I believe that through my tour under The Rebel Lecture Bureau, there will be put on not less than 25,000 new Rebel readers this year. No matter where I go in Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, or Arkansas, I find The Rebel known and loved because of its constructive work for Socialism. It has for the first time in the nation broken a new trail in Socialist statesmanship. Where formerly Interest and Profit alone were the indictments against capitalism, The Rebel has through its wonderful work made Rent join the other two; and thus caused the unholy trinity of Rent, Interest and Profit to be seen by all the sons of men."

Dates up to the moment are:

Sherman, Saturday, Feb. 27, C. F. Duncan, Co. Sec.

Bowie, Sunday, Feb. 28, topic "The Man, Jesus", under direction of Rev. O. B. Kelley. D. E. Riley et al.

Denton, First Monday, March 1, direction of M. H. S. Smallwood, chairman Card Committee.

Other dates not fixed, but accepted are: Marshall, Denison, Greenville, Bonham, Enterprise, Jacksonville, Mineola, Kennard, Cleveland, Eateville, Roby (2 dates), Temple, Dallas, Quanah, Bells, Brownwood, Eikhart, Hinnore City (Okla.) for debate. Mason, Santo, Bishop and others.

GOODE CASE CONTINUED.

The Goode case, demurrers and all, has been passed until the May term, 1915, of the Federal court at Dallas. Attorney Nugent has filed a brief and written arguments on the motion to quash the indictment, and when the case is called next May, if necessary, he will present the motion to quash the indictment and dismiss the case.

There are no new developments in the case except that the defense states that while there has been response to calls for contributions there are not sufficient funds on hand to pay court costs and other expenses and to appeal the case in the event of conviction. You can see the necessity of this from the simple fact that should Comrade Goode be convicted without any money on hand that would necessitate his going to jail, as with no funds it would be impossible for him to appeal the case. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that the Comrades should be urged to get ready for the trial by the May term, 1915.

There are about 360 locals in good standing in Texas at this time. Each local should take the matter up and remit as much as $10 in the fight. This will pay all necessary expenses and would provide means at once to fight his case with. If they would act promptly and remit as much as $1 it would result in raising sufficient funds to protect Comrade Goode all the way through in this case. Otherwise, unless something unforeseen happens, next spring he will be in a worse attitude than he is now. Comrade Goode has done everlasting service to the Socialist cause, especially to the army of the unemployed in Dallas and we should at all events take care of his case. He is an old man and cannot live long, at best. In addition he is in bad health. During the time he does live, he should not be burdened with the expenses of law suits when he is making a fight for the working class. An injury to one is the concern of all in the Socialist movement. Let us do our whole duty in the premises.

Comrade Nugent writes: "So far as I am individually concerned I ask nothing except that Comrade Goode be given an opportunity for me to take care of his rights and to set up a precedent in favor of freedom of speech and of the press, and so that the American people can speak out against their rulers any way they see fit and make them jump sideways when they do not do right."

SLAYDEN THE GOLD BRICK ARTIST.

Congressman Slayden from the San Antonio district, is a Southwest representative of the landlords of Texas in the national house of representatives. He has long been famed as a pink tea artist in the fashionable set of Washington, D. C., the city that is famed for having the widest and straightest streets and the dirtiest and crookedest politicians this side of Petrograd.

Acting in the interest of some Texas land sharks that are backed up by the San Antonio Express and the Houston Chronicle he thought to take advantage of the Belgian people whose lands had been desolated by the German army, to invite them to come to our fair state and build happy homes.

A Washington dispatch to the San Antonio Express last week says:

"Mr. Slayden took the matter up with the minister from Belgium, E. Havenith, and has received from him a letter that the Belgian government does not look with favor upon the efforts to induce their subjects to come to the United States."

Hurrah for Havenith! Havenith is a wise man, and in this hour of his people's stress he sees them from an enemy that is more deadly than the horde that rutted Louvain, wrecked Rheims and penalized Brussels.

The infamy of the Texas landlords is obviously known to the Belgian minister. His countrymen shall not come here to be exploited in competition with our own native miserables.

They will come when our British brothers will swarm to Texas, not to buy $5 "crawfish" land for $100 and spend their lives as men and women of the free while they listen to the Angelus bells in a foreign land.

They will come to a land of opportunity such as the Lone Star state will be when a domain ten times larger than Belgium and far larger than the land of the Teuton will be thrown open for use and occupancy to the men and women of all lands who will till the soil and in the sweat of their faces earn their bread while living under their own vine and fig tree.

Home to Havenith! He has seen through the rotten hypocrisy of the "gold-brick" artist, Slayden, who represents a district where landlordism has assumed the queen tenantry is the custom and graft is the embodiment of the constitution.

The Rebel salutes Minister Havenith!

SEND IN YOUR PETITIONS.

The last land petition booklet was mailed five days ago and we have refused to fill any more orders for them since Monday.

Immediately after reading this notice please mail to us at once your land petition so that we can get it to Austin a week before the legislature adjourns.

Mr. Pastoriza, tax commissioner of Houston, who believes that no personal property of any description including bank accounts or even skyscrapers should be taxed for a penny, but that all the tax should fall upon the land, has had a hearing before the legislature. He took the position that all taxation upon improvements was a tax upon industry, that interest was legitimate and that profit was honorable, and that the only form of progress was the landlord.

Mr. Pastoriza overlooked the fact that a man can own — as actually happens, in Montana today — two billion dollars' worth of wealth underneath the ground and become a thug-hiring, women murdering, liberty-destroying billionaire while living 3000 miles away in New York City. And in this connection The Rebel also refers him to the Colorado coal situation and Ludlow in confirmation of this position.

When the single-taxer will agree to only use and occupancy the sole title to land, he will join the Socialist party.

We Socialists must present our view of the Texas land situation before the legislature, which is that all land held for purposes of speculation or human exploitation must be taxed to its full rental value.

Send in your petitions at once!

The price of flour is steadily going up and the price of the Texas legislature is $2000 a day. Why?

The Enemy Within.

(Continued from Page 1.)

tween men and the nations, a country that would be the highest expression of civilization.

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There is but little chance that Wilson will call a special session of congress to put through an embargo that will starve the war and feed America and at the same time decrease to a minimum the tonnage of American shipping in the war zone, and thus greatly reduce the risk of war. Because he should know that the Enemy Within controls not only the national congress but the Associated Press and through that agency the major means of distributing the "news" to the nation.

The nation will be starved in the meantime, cotton will be about four cents next fall, the speculators will garner their golden harvest, unless the Enemy Within shall decide that it is advisable to plunge the United States in war.

How will this be done? By having England become outraged because the supply ships are not bringing food to her shores? Or because Germany becomes angered over the fact that American neutrality is a farce so far as Germany is concerned? *Or will it be because the Enemy Within decides that an American ship shall be blown up by a German submarine, with such a destruction of life that with the assistance of the muzzled press, the inevitable happens, and war is declared!!!*

Who is to go to the front? The victims of the Enemy Within.

Who will be the first to reach the recruiting stations? The renter without a home or the city worker without a job, both made homeless and penniless by the Enemy Within.

So far as The Rebel is concerned, he is well able to carry a gun but he will not under any consideration use a gun on his fellow-worker, regardless of color, race or creed. If he ever uses any gun it will be on the Enemy Within, because of his traitorous activities we can well say:

"Far called, our navies melt away;
On dune and hand land sinks the fire;
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!
Judge of the Nations, spare us yet,
Lest we forget — lest we forget!

SUDAN GRASS SEED — 50cts per lb., 10 cts extra per lb for postage on small orders. W. J. Kennedy.
4tp) St. 5, box 58, Temple, Tex.

OUR REBS.

I am glad to be able to say that the usual slump in subs that follow the big election is entirely over so far as this office is concerned. We have put on record-breaking number of subs and with the Rebel Lecture Bureau under way, are sure that 1915 will be the biggest year we have ever had.

The longer I look into the circulation and here, the more I am convinced that The Rebel sub. list equals the Socialist vote, and if I am correct as the Rebel goes beyond the six-figure mark to any considerable extent the South will be ours and the land question will be solved. Watch for my circular letter next week, in which I will show you the path to six figures.

The Circulation Man.

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W. L. Allen, Gustine, Tex. "Send us ten land petitions. We will reorganize here soon, and will make an effort to get Stanley Clark for one or two days."

J. L. Bright writes:—"There will be a debate at Bellina 8 miles. February 20, between A. Weiss, Democrat and J. L. Bright, Socialist. Weems affirms that the present system is better than the system advocated by Socialists."

GET THE MONEY

EXPERIENCE has been made thoroughly practical by the Rebel Poultry Farm. Every dollar invested in this farm has been used to benefit the readers of The Rebel. Our chickens are the best that money can buy. Our incubators are the best that money can buy. Our brooders are the best that money can buy. Our feed is the best that money can buy. Our methods are the best that money can buy. Our results are the best that money can buy. Our eggs are the best that money can buy. Our prices are the best that money can buy. Our guarantee is the best that money can buy. Our ability to satisfy you is the best that money can buy. Our ability to satisfy you is the best that money can buy. Our ability to satisfy you

State Office Notes.

T. A. HICKEY, State Sec. Hallettsville, Texas.

To the Socialists of the 16th Dist.
Eastland, Tex., Feb. 15.

Comrades:—The time for organization is ripe. The Democratic administration has been a dismal failure so far as the common people are concerned. It is very common to hear men that are prominent Democrats say: "I will never vote the Democratic ticket again." They are becoming more and more disgusted with old party politics.

Now is the time for us to get to them with the message of Socialism. People heretofore in reasonably good circumstances are actually suffering for the necessities of life. The heel of oppression has ground them down until they are almost at the point of revolt.

I know that money is scarce and hard to get hold of but if we ever hope to win a world for men and women, we will have to make a sacrifice. Do you know that if we, the Socialists of the 16th District would contribute *one days work* to the cause that we are all so vitally interested in, we could double and treble our organization in just a short time.

I have appealed to the Socialists of this district through the county and local secretaries with no great degree of success. I am writing this letter to you hoping that it will arouse your old-time enthusiasm. We have the greatest opportunity for organization offered to us that we have ever had.

Let me impress this upon your mind: *Unless we can have more local and county organization we are not going to be able to hold our district organization together.*

Let's get busy, comrades, and make this the banner district for Socialism. Yours for cooperation and organization.

W. T. Webb,
Sec.-Treas., 16th Cong. Dist.

• • •

The Way To Do It.

C. G. Cowan, live secretary of Poor Valley one of the livest locals in the state writes:

"We are so tickled with our growth here, which according to the official returns runs as published below, that we have determined to inaugurate a campaign of literature. Our vote for 1912 and 1914 in this precinct was as follows:

1912	
Donks	15
Rep	3
Prog	2
Socialist	21
1914	
Donks	21
Rep	0
Prog	0
Socialist	30

How do you like it? Beat 'em twice in succession, only moreso. Do we blame Tom Hickey? No. We give him credit with a share in it. What did it? Hard and persistent work for the Socialist party. Here is our literature plan:

"We select according to fitness and inclination three or more members to act as a literature committee. The local then makes up a purse and turns it over to them and tells them to select the papers that each wishes to represent and to get busy with what they do at once. This is our committee: M. A. Spraggins, Rebel; C. W. Jones, Appeal; C. H. Truitt, Christian Socialist; C. G. Cowan, Ripsaw. They have to report to the local once each month and are credited with the amount of cards ordered.

• • •

The Right Kind of Letter.

R. 3, Dexter, Tex., Feb. 15, 1915.

Dear Comrade Hickey:

Please send me two or three blank applications for charters.

Have just come over from Oklahoma for a few days work. Likely will get a debate with a sky-pilot, and perchance "land" a local or two.

I send you and all comrades my hearty greetings, and

"March on! March on!
Resolved on victory!"
The foot mon cour.

H. C. Bailey.

• • •

Henderson County Meeting.

Eustace, Tex., Feb. 29, 1915.

There will be a mass meeting of the Socialist party at Eustace on Saturday the 6th day of March 1915. Everybody invited.

M. J. Abbott, Co. Sec.

Membership Gain.

According to the financial report of the National Office published in the American Socialist of February 20, the national dues from the Socialist party of Texas for January was larger than in November and increased over 100 per cent. over the December dues.

This is the time for everybody to get in line and give the retreating Donks shot and shell, for we have them on the run.

• • •

Getting Alive.

Things are waking up in the 16th congressional district, judging by a rush order for 300 dues stamps from W. T. Webb, East land, Tex., the live-wire congressional secretary. He reports "business picking up" and that W. S. Noble will be gin campaigning in the district during March and April

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Another District Organized.

The district that polled the largest percentage of Socialist votes fast election, the Third, has organized and soon things will be humming there.

County Secretary J. C. Jones has completed a referendum that has resulted in the election of J. B. Lewis, of Murchison, one of the militant comrades of that part of the state, as congressional secretary. He will get the work going as soon as he can get in touch with the Socialists of the district.

• • •

TIME EXTENDED.

To Local Secretaries:

Owing to the fact that there has been a several days delay in sending out the notifications to perhaps thirty locals, the time for making nominations for state political candidates is hereby extended to the third day of March, 1915.

Nominations must be in the hands of the state secretary by that date.

Yours Fraternally,
T. A. Hickey,
State Sec. S. P.

• • •

W. S. Noble.

Those wanting dates for Socialist speeches from the old reliable W. S. Noble in North, Northeast and East Texas, should write to this office at once.

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JITNEYS IN FORT WORTH.

The jitney has made a success in Fort Worth, but Louis J. Wortham of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and a lot of other wolves of the paunch-bellied type are doing their best to destroy them. Wortham and his scurvy crew are of the type that go to the legislature and makes representative government the colossal joke that it is.

Wortham should not be blamed for his conduct. He lives in Portsopolis, runs a paper subsidized by the packers and in such a porcine environment he takes on the appearance of a hog. This goes for his pal, Paddock, another member of the body that meets adjoining the Austin asylum. The jitney, however, will win, because the multitude will read stories like the following, draw their own conclusions and act:

The Light accuses the Democratic officials of being on the side of corporations. No better proof of our assertion could be given than the passing of the ordinance last Monday taxing the Jitneys $20.00 for eight passenger cars. This is almost $4.00 per passenger. The street car company carries as many as one hundred and twenty passengers in a car—most of them standing up. Did the city "fathers" ever think to tax the 120 passenger car $480 a year, which would be about the proper proportion, when compared with the tax they loaded on the jitneys? Why not compel the street car company to do the same? Hereafter we will keep throwing light on the doing of the "Honorables". Read this paper and watch them.—Fort Worth Light.

The Socialist movement in Oklahoma is gathering strength and imperius every day. Each mail brings news of new members, new converts to the cause of industrial freedom and justice. Be sure you are in at the death of the old parties. Keep that Red Card stamped up-to-date.

Land League.

(W. S. Noble, Sec.-Treas., Rockdale, Texas.)

Local Silent at Sikestown, Mississippi into line with 39 main members. Fred Nelson is secretary Sikestown, Mo., R. F. D. No. 1.

Next in line is Brother —— of Lorraine, Texas, who sends us two dollars to use in any way we see fit to get the workers politically and industrially organized.

Next in our mail we hear from Brother —— of Lawn, who sends $1.76 as member-at-large and initiation fee, also asking for commission as organizer. He was supplied.

Next we are in receipt of a letter from the only president the Farmers Union ever had telling of conditions that exist in the county where we made our home 17 years. He says the best land of the county is going into the hands of the loan companies as fast as things can be arranged to put it there. He tells us the farmers of the county are at least 82,000,000 and that the Actual Farmers must organize, offering us his service. Brethren of the Land League and actual sympathizers, I want everyone who will contribute to the fund to put this champion of human liberty in the industrial field at work to write me a letter saying I will give —— dollars to put Dave Neil in the organization work. Just as soon as money to collect and arrange the route is subscribed we will notify you your donation is accepted. We can serve you at home for nothing but time earned travel from county to county and state to state without expenses. So let's hear your answer.

The next is from an old neighbor who goes back over years he has known us in the K. of L., Alliance, Populist Party, Farmers Alliance and Socialist party, saying some very pleasant things about our fidelity and loyalty to the cause of Labor. Say "Doc", we thank you, but say you are mistaken about one thing "you never can arouse the slaves of labor, and for your sacrifice you will only get their knocks." You missed it a mile. Labor, the sleeping giant is aroused, we may go to our grave dishonored but never for betraying our class, and we would be guilty of the same if we believed the picture you present and cease our efforts in their behalf.

In the same way comes a letter which says: "Dear Brother Noble: I see the necessity of having the workers both politically and industrially organized, first for our future welfare, second for our present needs. Send me a blank to organize and tell me if I can give the organizer fee to the members!"— Sure brother, it is with you. The organizer's fee of 50c is expected to pay the organizer but poorly for this time, but where a man devotes his whole time to the work it is absolutely necessary. Do as you please about it.

We have had some calls for the yellow dent corn advertised last issue for Brother F. O. Porter, of Lott, Texas, will say write direct to him he is a class conscious work er and reliable.

I go this week to Wood county, from there to Parker, hence to Collin county, back through Grayson, Falls, Cherokee, Henderson, and Anderson, home. Don't worry about the money write me and if you are not able to pay for time, write anyway, all I expect is expenses and I may be the conditions are such I will be in your community, and can help you. The capitalist class may rob you, but it will not do you, me from serving you. Why? Because I love you? No. Because I love myself, and cannot liberate my own children without liberating yours. Write me. There may be a way around the worst road.

See that you organize. Don't worry about the money. Just write, saying "We will organize and meet regularly and stand by the League, but are not able to pay our dues." We will send you supplies but if able, pay your dues and thereby help the man who is not able.

All subscribers for the "Act ual Farmer" will receive The Rebel this week and until we get financially able to go on with the publication of the same.

We publish a financial statement this issue of receipts and expenses since taking charge of the work Nov. 16, 1914 until February 16, 1915:

Financial Statement of the L. L. of A.

Amount received from E. O. Meitzen	$ 4.04
Total subscription to Actual Farmer	24.25
Total dues and donations	26.00
Total	$54.29
Expenses:	
Printing and stationary, supplies, Rockdale Reporter	$10.00
Express on office supplies, books	1.55
Postage	1.50
Telegraph and telephone	1.90
Express on paper	.55
Carbon paper	.25
Typewriter supplies	.80
Express on printing	.35
Total	$30.40

(The expenses printing The Actual Farmer are not included in the above.)

• • •

WHY?

Did you ever read the biggest Rebelette Te Rebel ever pulled? It went this way?

"Germany has 209,000 square miles. Texas has 266,000 square miles. Hence Texas is 57,000 miles larger than Germany. Germany has 65,000,000 people, Texas has 4,000,000 people, one-half of whom are on the ragged edge of starvation all the time. Why?"

Now let us see if we can't pull a better one:

What is the reason that if you can put all Germany in Texas and it is only one state in 48, and the other 47 states have the potential power to produce enough food, clothing and shelter to supply the world five times over, that one-half of America is on the ragged edge of poverty and 95 per cent of the other half are on the ragged edge of anxiety, not knowing whether they will wind up on the poor farm or in a rented shack?

When the first American merchant ship is blown up who will be the first to enlist? Come to think of it, there ain't no such doggone thing. Whoever heard of an American ship since Andrew Jackson & Co. went out of business.

BUNDLE RATES.

The bundle brigade reports that they are doing splendid work distributing Rebels among the neighbors. They say it is the easiest way to secure subs and to start the Danny Dube to thinking.

The price is at rock bottom: 1-2 cent per copy; 50 cents the hundred; $5 per 1000.

Try circulating bundles among your neighbors once a week, and you may be assured of the very best results.

PEARSON'S

is the only Magazine of its kind

This is why:—
Three years ago Pearson's decided to be a *free magazine.*

This is what it did:—
ABANDONED FANCY COVERS
CUT OUT COLORED PICTURES
ADOPTED PLAIN PAPER

This was the purpose:—
A plain form would enable the magazine to live on its income from subscriptions and monthly sales. It would not have to consider the effect on advertisers when it wanted to print the truth about any public question.

This was the result:—
Pearson's *now* prints the truth about some question which affects your welfare in every issue. *It prints facts which no magazine that depends on advertising could "afford" to print.*

And, with all this, Pearsons still prints as much fiction and entertainment articles as other magazines. If you want plain facts instead of pretty pictures buy a copy on the news stand for 15 cents, or subscribe by the year for $1.50.

By special arrangement with Pearson's we are able to make you the following clubbing offer.

CLUB RATES.

Pearson's Magazine, one year	$1.50
International Socialist Review one year	$1.00
The Rebel, one year	$ .50
	$3.00
The whole works for	$1.75

Address all orders to
The Rebel,
Hallettsville, Texas.

Do You Want An Education?

Would You Spend 5 Cents a Day and 15 Minutes Time a Day To Get An Education?

The People's College offers to the workers a year's course in "Plain English" giving the equivalent of a good common school education in English Spelling, Penmanship, Letter Writing and Composition.

THE COURSE COVERS ONE YEAR'S TIME.

THERE ARE 104 LESSONS, 2 EACH WEEK FOR 52 WEEKS.

WE SEND YOU MATERIAL, ALL COMPLETE, TEXTS, PEN, INK, PAPER. YOU CAN SIT RIGHT DOWN AND BEGIN.

YOU STUDY WHENEVER YOU LIKE — a few minutes after supper, at noon, after your dinner, before the whistle blows, on the car on your way home — any time you can find a few minutes' time to spare.

YOU SEND THE PAPERS TO US WHEN YOU FINISH THE LESSON.

WE EXAMINE THEM CAREFULLY, CORRECT THEM, OFFER SUGGESTIONS AND RETURN THEM TO YOU.

YOU MAY ASK ALL THE QUESTIONS YOU LIKE — ASK FOR ALL THE HELP YOU NEED.

The Course comes to you.
You study at home.
Your studies do not interfere with your regular work.
You study whenever it is convenient, begin when you like and take your own time.
You have no books to buy, we furnish everything.

CAN YOU USE GOOD ENGLISH

? ?

Can You Find the Word You Want?
Can You Spell?
Can you write a good letter?
Are you a good penman?
Can you say what you want to say?

Plain English For Every Day

We have felt that the great service The People's College could render, was to prepare a course which would supply a common school education in English written and spoken to the workers, and such a course is ready. This is the great need of the working class—the first essential.

We have spared no effort or expense to get the course which we feel would exactly fit the needs of these workers and it is THIS course, which we are now offering to you. This course is simple, clear, free from all unnecessary rules and formulas—and you will be surprised to find how fascinating and interesting the study of English can be made.

THIS YEAR'S COURSE WILL TEACH YOU TO:

Use Good English.
Spell Correctly.
Be a good penman.
Converse fluently.
Prepare a good speech.
Enlarge your stock of words.
Write a good letter.

LAY A FOUNDATION FOR AN EDUCATION.

THE BEST COURSE EVER OFFERED AND BY YOUR OWN COLLEGE

EUGENE V. DEBS, Chancellor — ARTHUR LE SUEUR, Vice-President — J. I. SHEPPARD, Secretary

A Common School Education within your reach
takes only a few minutes study each day — costs only a few cents per day.

EASY PAYMENTS

MAIL THIS COUPON NOW

The People's College, Fort Scott, Kansas:
Please send full information regarding the Plain English Course.
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ADDRESS
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OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT

(H. M. Sinclair, State Secretary, Oklahoma City, Okla.)

THE OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE.

With the Oklahoma legislative session half over and nothing done that would benefit the farmers and laborers, one is forced to admit the truth of the admission of one Democratic House member that "political platforms are made to run on and not to stand on." The Democratic platform of 1914 is loaded with promises to the farmer and the laborer of this state. The voters were told that if they would but trust the "Donks" four years more that happiness would be their lot. No legislation as yet offered by them would in the least fulfill their promises during the last campaign. True, they have introduced some "administration" measures but nothing that would injure the bunch of grafters and political buccaneers that control the resources of the state is permitted to be embodied therein. Nor is there anything in those "administration measures" that will help the farmers and workers in the industries. In refutation of these statements the average Democrat will point with pride to the Workingmans Compensation Bill which passed the House this week. However this bill is not the bill that was originally asked for by the workers, but it has been amended and cut up in the House until it is almost unrecognizable even to its friends. What the Senate will do to it remains to be seen. That the Compensation Bill was not killed in the House is not the fault of W. A. Durant the administration's "power behind the throne", and speaker pro tem, of that body. Mr. Durant offered some sixty-four amendments to the bill, amendments that would absolutely kill the benefits to be derived from the operation of the bill, and support his amendments by tearful pleas for our infant industries.

* * *

The so-called "Conversation" Oil and Gas bill has passed both Houses. The bill confers czar-like powers upon our corporation commission, and it does not solve the oil and gas troubles of the state. Socialist members of both Houses opposed the bill. Why? Because they know the solution for this difficulty. They know that attempts to regulate these things increase rather than diminish the evil. They know that oil and gas are natural resources. They belong to the entire citizenship.

The word "reasonable" or reasonably" occurs some twenty times in the Democratic platform of 1914. This in explanation of the following:

During the discussion of the oil and gas bill, a Socialist member of the House requested Mr. Sykes of Tulsa to define the term "reasonable profit" as used in this bill. Mr. Sykes reply, beautifully lucid in its native simplicity was this: "anything you can get out of a thing when you ain't getting anything now." Isn't it just wonderful? Again, during the discussion of a measure creating an insurance board, a pernicious Socialist inquired what a "reasonable" insurance rate was, as mentioned in the bill. Hon. W. A. Durant who was acting as chairman proffered the information that, "a reasonable rate in insurance, is a rate that would insure the company from becoming bankrupt." Mr. Durant's explanation can be better understood when we know that the people of the State of Oklahoma pay in premiums to insurance companies, approximately ten million dollars and the insurance companies pay the people of Oklahoma approximately five and one half millions of dollars leaving a balance in favor of the insurance companies of some five and one half million dollars. Reasonable? Well, reasonably so.

* * *

Socialist members have introduced a measure establishing a State Insurance Department to handle all kinds of insurance. They think this five and one half millions will do the citizenship of the State just as much good as it will the insurance companies. The supporters of the profit system will probably make short shift of this bill.

* * *

Spurred on by the pleadings of thoroughly frightened Democratic politicians, that something must be done to stop the growth of Socialism, there was introduced by the Democrats, and passed by all parties a bill styled the "Home Ownership Bill." The bill provides for the use of State, Educational Institution Lands and the New College Funds in loaning money to the citizens of the state for three purposes: 1) To assist the borrower to pay for a home; 2) to pay off an existing mortgage; 3) to make permanent improvements upon the home farm.

The loans are to run 21 years and draw 6 per cent interest. Not more than $2000 can be loaned to any one individual or family. A person, to receive a loan under this measure must own twice as much land as the loan he desires. For instance if he wants to borrow one thousand dollars he must own land exclusive of improvements to the value of $2000. Just how this will materially aid the tenant farmers of Oklahoma, 99 per cent of whom have not a foot of ground, has not yet been explained. The bill might possibly assist the well paid farmer (if the funds are not all diverted to the Indian lands of the eastern part of the state) and it was this possibility that impelled the Socialist members of the House and Senate to support the measure. Socialist members are always willing to get behind any measure that would in any way relieve or promise to relieve the economic stress of the working class of Oklahoma, regardless as to what party introduced the measure.

A measure providing for the establishment of public warehouses, introduced by Socialists, was reported favorably by the Committee on Agriculture this week. This is the first Socialist measure to be printed and placed on the calendar.

In addition to the insurance bill heretofore mentioned, Socialist members have lately introduced a measure providing for the establishment and equipment of a state printing plant for the publication or school book to be furnished free to the pupils of Oklahoma schools, also for the printing of supplies for state and county offices.

* * *

LEARNING FROM COMRADE HELEN KELLER.

Wonderful Blind Girl Lectures in Oklahoma—"Certainly, I Am A Socialist, Because It is The Only way Out Of The Present Muddle." Is Her Reply To Question.

(J. O. Welday.)

For the past week Helen Keller has been lecturing in the larger cities of Oklahoma. This wonderful woman who cannot hear a sound, who never saw anything she can remember, who was dumb until after she graduated from college, who seemingly possesses few of the blessings with which most of us are endowed, has chosen as the subject of her inspiring lecture, "Happiness."

"I was blind, now I can see; I was deaf, now I can hear; I was dumb, now I can speak," was what as she touched her teacher, Mrs. J. A. Macy who has been her constant companion for nearly thirty years. "And it was all through her."

This tribute to her teacher served as the introduction to comrade Keller's address to the members of the Central Teachers' Association at Oklahoma City, Friday evening, Feb. 19. Wonder and admiration gripped the audience as the marvelous achievements of this girl's life were laid before them. Here was a lesson in psychology and pedagogy such as teachers are seldom privileged to receive. In Helen Keller the audience had a concrete example of what right environment can do for one so grievously afflicted. Her whole story speaks eloquently of what can be done for all children everywhere when same economic conditions give them a chance to develop.

"Not the pleasant things alone that one can get out of this life, but the things that can be done for others are the ones worth striving for." This sentence epitomizes Comrade Keller's discussion of "Happiness." This point of view accounts for her answer to the question of one of her hearers. "Are you happy?" the man asked her. "Oh, yes," she answered quickly, "because it is the only way out of the muddle humanity is in at the present time."

"To see and hear comrade Keller is at once a reproach and inspiration," said one of the comrades who heard her. Her accomplishments reproach us who are so well endowed and who can do so much more than she can. Her inspiration condemns so many workers toward darkness and despair. Her mastery of a college education and her twenty year struggle to master the art of speech inspire those of us who are sometimes discouraged by seeing great odds against the Socialist movement. When but a fraction of the same will power and determination that has characterized Helen Keller's life is enfused into the Socialist movement, the co-operative commonwealth will not be far distant.

Comrade Keller on being told that the Socialist vote of this state is now 53,000 and that the local membership is about 3000, exclaimed, "Why, that is great, very much pleased." "That is fine", she said, "I know it is only a question of a few years until we have Oklahoma for Socialism."

COMBATTING SOCIALISM IN OKLAHOMA.

Young Men's Democratic League To A New Role—Big Meeting at Muskogee To Determine Ways and Means for Exterminating Socialism.

(J. O. Welday.)

For the past ten years the democratic party of Oklahoma has fought Socialism by the simple expedient of ignoring it. Only twice and there has there been any open and above board opposition to the movement. "Discussion" remained a forbidden fruit upon the part of the party, "breed Socialists." Incidentally, lack of discussion seems to have increased the multiplication of the pest of Socialism in Oklahoma. As a preliminary to task, the young democratic party of Oklahoma will meet at Muskogee. After the approved old fashion, the matter of first interest was the selection of a chairman to the organization. It is safe to say that the discussions and maneuvering for this place of political advantage occupied much more of the time and attention of the delegates than did a study of economic conditions of the state. The party organizers are exactly like the older variety in this respect.

Have the confident young men any well defined plan for relieving economic conditions in Oklahoma? They have not. They have not even any clear idea upon landlordism because the fathers of many of them are landlords. They dare not outline any real remedies for stopping robbery by usury in this state many of their fathers and employers are bankers. They cannot propose the state ownership of cotton gins, wheat elevators, warehouses, factories and distributing agencies for the extremely good reason that their fathers and employers are not directly interested in these things, will not stand for it.

But that is not all of the sad story. The party tradition is still all powerful among the young democrats. Compromise is the party watchword. Every young democrat knows that party discussion comes only to the "recalcitrant." The powerful group that really finances, and controls the party will not permit any real attack on its economic interests. Let any young democrat propose anything "radical" so far as vested rights are concerned and he is a marked man. And the entire party machine will be turned on Muskogee is entirely aware of this fact.

There is but one thing that the aforementioned young democrat chips off the old blocks can do under the circumstances and that thing will be done with much blowing of trumpets. That thing is to profess one thing but act another; to promise to the workers but to perform for the parasites.

The young democrats will be true to the traditions of the party takes for a slogan, "Let the people rule" but plan to disfranchise as many people as possible by a costly and vexatious poll tax. The pressure of the growing Socialist party will compel a pretended radicalism. The steady, unrelenting pressure of the economic interests that own the democratic organization will make certain that every proposed plan for the alleviation of present conditions is full of blow holes and its execution put in the hands of the enemies of the working class.

But the Youthful Donks will learn a lot in the months to come. There is no intellectual exercise on earth so productive of clearness of vision on the economic field as an argument with a Socialist. And it's positively astonishing to think of the number of Socialists that are willing and anxious to climb into the ring whenever the young donks are ready for the fray.

Out of the shouting and tumult that ensues, this fact among many others, will be made very plain to many a college grad who isn't aware of it now. That fact is that there exists a large and determined group in Oklahoma who are quite certain that the state should belong to those who have settled it, sowed it, cultivated it, developed it, that the right to own land and to have the fruits of such toil, is the demand of this group first, last and all the time. And youthful dunks and old, republicans and bull moosers to the contrary, the growing Socialist party of Oklahoma will be satisfied with nothing less than the collectively ownership and democratic management of things collectively used.

* * *

Comrades Busy in Atoka County.

The Socialists of Atoka are continuing the campaign in Atoka county. They hold a splendid county meeting on February 11, and laid plans for a rally at Caney on February 20. Good speakers will be secured for the meeting.

They have also planned to engage comrade Joe McCullough about the first of March to take charge of a campaign of organization throughout the county. His dates will be published in a later edition of The Ballot. The comrades in Atoka county has taken a firm hold in the county and the following locals have agreed to plant such crops: Post Oak, Caney, Nix, Voco, Black Jack, Liberty Hill and Tusha. Other locals are falling in line. With this spirit in the air, the Socialists of Atoka county have some thing to worry over. But never up, Donks, the worst is yet to come. Wait till the ball is started with the summer campaign.

* * *

Thurman's Dates.

Comrade W. L. Thurman is now working in the northern part of the state. Locals desiring lectures have their choice of the following subjects: Social Evolution, The Class Struggle, How and Why the Ruling Class Govern the Institution of Society, and The Land Question.

Comrade Thurman will deliver all four lectures for $12 and expenses or any one of them for three dollars and expenses. Comrades in every section of the state have declared that these lectures are very effective. Comrade Thurman should be addressed at Sulphur, Okla.

* * *

The thought of man has imprisoned steam and made it do his will. It has harnessed lightning and made it his slave. So must Socialist thought do with all institutions, all intellects. So Socialist thought is doing in this state of ours. As Tertullian said to declaiming paganism in Rome, so can we say to the decaying capitalism of Oklahoma: "We are but of yesterday and already we fill all your country; your cities, your strong places, your towns; we can found in your assemblies." Tomorrow belongs to the Socialist.

* * *

Your Certificate of Membership.

You are proud to belong to the greatest movement on earth, aren't you? You have a right to be proud of your membership in a state that is turning toward Socialism a little faster than any other in the United States, except, possibly Texas. Don't forget that your red card is your prime facie evidence showing that you "belong". And you are rounder than ever of that card when it is stamped up to date. Likewise, your secretary is quite elated when he sees Oklahoma at the head of the list in membership column.

DOINGS IN THE OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE.

The usury bill, introduced by Glasco has, at last, been printed and placed on the calendar. The Committe on Banks and Banking reported unfavorably on this bill Tuesday, February 16th. Mr. Glasco immediately moved that the bill be printed and placed on the calendar. This motion carried by a vote of 21 to 26, with all five democratic members voting yes. Without the Socialist votes it would have been a tie, 26 to 26, and it is almost certain that the Speaker of the House would have voted against the motion as it is generally conceded that he is not in sympathy with Mr. Glasco's measure. Without the five Socialist votes the bill would never have seen daylight. And if the bill finally becomes a law, which is very doubtful, the voters of Oklahoma can thank the Socialist party for it. The democratic administration will use every possible means to defeat the passage of an effective usury law. They must do this to protect the bunch of grafters that finances their democratic party.

* * *

The Democratic party, led by General Appropriation and his able assistant, Special Appropriation, is conducting a raid on the Treasury of the State, the magnitude of which has never yet been equalled in the history of Oklahoma. It is freely conceded by the Democratic leaders that the appropriations to be passed by this legislature will exceed in a total amount, those passed by any former or legislature by hundreds of thousands of dollars. The Democratic campaign slogan of "Quod Erat Demonstrandum" has become a by-word and a joke among the Democrats of the House. It is sometimes used in derision at the attempts of the Socialists and a few other conscientious members of the legislature, who are honestly trying to protect the tax payers of the state from the bunch of political pirates and thieving highbinders who handle out the swag with cadeless abandon. In every instance the appropriations for all purposes are increased over those of two years ago. Representative Nesbitt of Pittsburg county, and one of the prominent Lieutenants assisting in this raid on the Treasury, cautiously arraigned some of the Democrats who occasionally line up with the Socialists against the reckless expenditure of the peoples money, by calling them a "——— bunch of cotton tails." "You follows", he remarked, "try and cut these appropriations, fight them at every turp, because you are afraid of a bunch of Socialists. Why don't you stand up and fight for this. The Socialists ought to take this state." A Socialist member assured him that the Socialists are going to take the State at that right soon. The raid on the treasury will continue daily from now until within five days of the close of the session. The Tulsa World strikes a responsive chord in the minds of the voters when it expresses the opinion that the State would be better off if we paid the legislators their mileage and per diem and let them stay at home. If the citizenship of the state has ever hoped that the Democratic party would purge itself of the grafters in control, and give us a decent, efficient, economical administration the next four years, that hope has been dispelled by the actions of its representatives the past few weeks.

In order to raise the money for the increased expenditures provided for in the appropriation bills the bulls of every form and feature are being introduced and considered by our democratic lawgivers. The tenant farmer will be working class generally, are totally forgotten in the mad scramble to raise the dough and spend it. "We must have this money or you will cripple the departments" is the plea of those seeking to rob the state treasury. And so far this plea has served to line up enough of the members to pass the bills for swag. All the members from towns having state institutions hang together on these appropriations thus bearing out the charges of the other members of the Legislature that it is a case of "You vote for my appropriation and I will vote for yours."

During the discussion of an appropriation of eight thousand dollars for mine extension work in the lead and zinc mining district of Oklahoma, Representative S. L. Johnson of Okmulgee made an old time Fourth of July speech, in support of the measure. Mr. Johnson is a son teaching in this school that will benefit by the appropriation. Two days later a resolution was up levying a two per cent gross production tax on lead and zinc. Mr. Johnson opposed this tax being so high and spoke in its reduction to one half of one per cent. Upon being questioned, Mr. Johnson admitted that he would rather pay a gross production tax of two per cent than an ad valorem tax, yet he wanted the two per cent reduced to one half of one per cent. It is in this way that the corporations have taken control of our natural resources and dodge the payment of taxes, forcing the burden of bearing the expense of government upon the farmers.

* * *

House Bill 493 by Thurmond of Atoka, a bill defining adultery and prescribing a penalty, has been twice killed by the "virtuous" Democrats of the House. The author of the bill is one of the "Free Love" Socialists voted for the bill. One disgusted Democrat remarked that the only set of men in the House that had voted right on every moral issue were the Socialists.

* * *

A letter received by one of the Republican members, from one of his constituents, and containing the following sentiment was handed to one of the Socialists with the remark, "There is another Republican you boys have expected to see."

"I notice those few Socialists down there are furnishing you Democrats and Republicans some mental food for reflection and the conduct of the present legislature is being watched closer by the average voter than ever before. I make the comment I hear the Socialists are gaining favor everywhere, even among the little business men."

* * *

A Union Labor official who has attended every session of the legislature, since statehood was asked what he thought of the attitude of the Democratic administration toward the laboring men. His reply was that this administration was more completely under the control of the corporations than any previous administration. This is true. Never, in any session of an Oklahoma legislature has any act of man been so completely dominated by the master class as are the Democratic members of the present legislature. The farmer and day laborer can expect nothing, no consideration whatever from the gang now in the saddle.

* * *

The laboring class is about to receive its bi-annial betrayal at the hands of a Democratic administration. The chains are to be forged for the economic masters are to have their hold on the lives of the workers strengthened. The condition of the working class is to be made just a little more miserable, more hopeless, if possible, than ever before.

The Democratic party of Oklahoma, in the past, has never yet failed to betray the workers of the State, and it will not fail to betray them in this instance.

* * *

The Christian evangelist who preaches Christ and Hun cruelfied is the one who builds up the Socialist movement. He sticks to the vital point in the church propaganda. The Socialist who declares the class struggle, the right to work and the right of the worker to the product of his toil is invincible. He is the one who is building up the movement, making the kind of "rock" will cannot turn back. We have a host of them in Oklahoma.

* * *

Here in a state with pretended democracy but actual oligarchy, a tomfoolery doctrine is being taught every day of the year. It is that the working class must free itself, that it must rid itself of the bonds of social parasites, that only those will be free who will help in the battle for freedom. That doctrine is being carefully taught in every corner of the state. There is not room enough in Oklahoma for this doctrine and oligarchy to exist together.

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